

REMARKS

The present application has been amended in response to the Examiner's Office Action to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 8-12 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oh (U.S. Patent No. 6,471,386), rejected claims 3-4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Oh and Asanuma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,927,071), rejected claims 7 and 15 as being unpatentable over a combination of Oh and Fox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,779,835), and rejected claims 5-6, 14 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Oh and Bertram et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0086324).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to specifically claim a rotatable input member, gearing in the housing configured to provide that rotation of the rotatable input member causes extension and retraction of said adjuster member, that the adjuster member is extendable and retractable into and out of contact with the expandable member and that the adjuster member is configured to be retractable to such an extent that the end of the adjuster member contacts and pushes on the expandable member. Claim 11 has been similarly amended, but is directed to a method. Claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner cites primarily United States Patent No. 6,471 386 (Oh). However, the Oh reference does not even disclose a headlamp adjuster. While the Examiner asserts that part number 15 is an adjuster member, part number 15 is merely a snap fitting pin. While the reference does disclose a bellows spring bracket (part number 13), the

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bellows is not used to accommodate the retraction of an adjuster member which results as a result of rotation of a rotatable input member. In Oh, there is no rotatable input member which is rotatable to cause the snap fitting pin 15 to retract such that an end of the pin 15 contacts a id pushes on part 13. In contrast, the bellows spring bracket is provided merely to withstand impact (see, for example, col. 3, lines 37-40). In Oh, the end of part number 15 is not retractable such that it contacts part number 13, and part number 13 does not expand to accommodate the retraction.

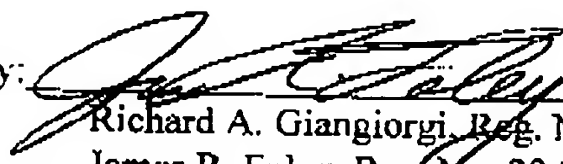
Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1 and 11 of the present application, and those claims which depend therefrom, are allowable.

Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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